

REMARKS

Applicant cancelled claim 15 to substantially incorporate its subject matter into independent claim 11, and amended claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 16, 18 and 31 to further define Applicant's claimed invention. Applicant submits that the amendment to independent claims 1, 11, 28 and 31 is supported at least by paragraph 17 (of Applicant's publication number 2004/0126281) and claim 15 as originally filed. The amendment to claims 4 and 16 is supported at least by paragraph 29 of the '281 publication and Fig. 2. The amendment to claims 8 and 18 is supported at least by paragraph 17 of the '281 publication and Fig. 2.

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 28, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,750,039 to Bargoot et al. ("Bargoot"). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection. Applicant amended independent claims 1 and 11 to recite a system including a platform, "said platform being configured to be only partially withdrawn from said container," which is substantially the subject matter of former claim 15. Applicant amended independent claim 28 to recite a system where the frame is "configured to be only partially withdrawn from said container." Applicant amended independent claim 31 to recite a cover "being adapted to remain in moveable connection to said frame." Bargoot teaches a filtration apparatus where "the Slide Holder latches are released and the filter slide is removed from the assembly, placed in a standard slide tray, and placed in a wash solution at elevated temperature for 30 minutes." (Bargoot, col. 9, lines 43-47; Fig. 10). The slide taught by Bargoot is completely removed from the holder. Bargoot does not teach or suggest a storage system as recited in independent claims 1, 11, 28 and 31 as now amended. Accordingly, Applicant submits that the rejection of claims 1, 4, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 18, 28, 30 and 31 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Bargoot has been overcome.

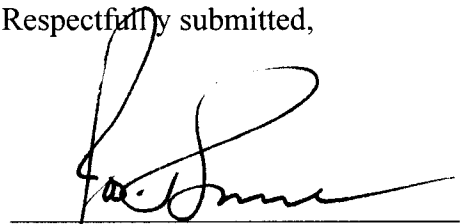
The Examiner rejected claims 6, 7, 20 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bargoot in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,818,180 to Douglas et al.; and claims 2, 5, 9, 10, 14, 22 and 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Bargoot in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,872,713 to Douglas et al. Applicant submits that the rejections of dependent claims 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 14 and 20-23 are rendered moot at least due to the allowability of independent claims 1 and 11, from which claims 2, 5-7, 9, 10, 14 and 20-23 depend either directly or indirectly.

Applicant submits that independent claims 1, 11, 28 and 31 are patentable and that dependent claims 2, 4-10, 12-14, 16, 18, 20-23, 29 and 30 dependent from one of independent claims 1, 11, 28 and 31, or claims dependent therefrom, are patentable at least due to their dependency from an allowable independent claim.

In view of the foregoing remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the claims, as amended, are patentable. Therefore, it is requested that the Examiner reconsider the outstanding rejections in view of the preceding comments. Issuance of a timely Notice of Allowance of the claims is earnestly solicited.

The Commissioner if authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments relating to this application to Deposit Account No. 18-2055.

Respectfully submitted,



Joseph T. Leone, Reg. No. 30,492
CUSTOMER NUMBER 25005
DEWITT ROSS & STEVENS S.C.
2 East Mifflin St., Suite 600
Madison, Wisconsin 53703-2865
Telephone: (608) 255-8891
Facsimile: (608) 252-9243

I certify that this paper is being electronically submitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via the PAIR (Patent Application Information Retrieval) system on the following date:

Date of Submission: Sept. 17, 2008

Signature: 